

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03790 221849Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, UR

SUBJECT: SUB-GROUPS ON PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICES AND ON ARTS OF THE
HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP GET OFF TO A SHAKY START

REF: MOSCOW 2499

1. THE RECENTLY-FORMED WORKING GROUP ON PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICES OF THE HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP HAS PUBLICIZED A MARCH 14 KGB SEARCH OF THE APARTMENT OF A.P. PODRABINEK AND THE SEIZURE OF A JUST-COMPLETED MANUSCRIPT OF HIS BOOK "PUNITIVE MEDICINE", AS WELL AS FILES AND RECORDS ON SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICES WITH RESPECT TO POLITICAL PRISONERS. IN A SEPARATE STATEMENT, PODRABINEK CLAIMED THAT THE KGB EMPLOYED TECHNIQUES REMINISCENT OF STALINIST METHODS. AGENTS ARRIVED AT MIDNIGHT AND REQUIRED OVER FIVE HOURS TO MAKE THE SEARCH. "KGB AGENTS ASSIGNED TO ME FOLLOW CLOSE IN MY TRACKS AND DO NOT LEAVE ME FOR A MOMENT. THEY THREATEN ME WITH ARREST AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. MY FRIENDS RECEIVE ANONYMOUS TELEPHONE CALLS CONTAINING THREATS AND DEMANDS THAT THEY CUT OFF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ME."

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03790 221849Z

2. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE ARTS OF THE HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED A KGB WARNING. ON MARCH 15 (THE SAME DAY ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY WAS ARRESTED), OSKAR RABIN, IOSIF KIBLITSKIY AND BORIS AMARANTOV WERE VISITED BY AGENTS WHO TOOK THEM TO KGB OFFICES FOR A DISCUSSION OF THEIR FORMATION OF

THE HELSINKI SUB-GROUPS ON ARTS. KIBLITSKIY REPORTED THAT HE AND AMARANTOV WERE SEPARATELY TAKEN TO THE DISTRICT KGB OFFICE LOCATED ON KUTUZOVSKIY 22. AGENTS THERE TOLD KIBLITSKIY THAT THEY LEARNED OF THE FORMATION OF THE SUB-GROUP ON ARTS FROM A PROGRAM ON RADIO LIBERTY; THAT THIS STEP WAS FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN HIS ACTIVISM IN UNOFFICIAL ART, AND THAT HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUB-GROUP WERE FACING A LOT OF TROUBLE. HE WAS REMINDED THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE A "PROPISKA" (RIGHT OF RESIDENCE) AND CAN BE PROSECUTED FOR ILLEGAL RESIDENCE IN MOSCOW.

3. RABIN AND AMARANTOV RECEIVED SIMILAR WARNINGS. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SUB-GROUP WERE OUT OF TOWN. KIBLITSKIY IS PLANNING TO LEAVE MOSCOW UNTIL THINGS COOL OFF, AS ARE RABIN AND AMARANTOV. THUS, THE SUB-GROUP ON THE ARTS HAS FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED OPERATIONS SHORTLY AFTER ISSUING AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS FORMATION.

4. AMARANTOV, A MIME ACTOR, WAS SCHEDULED TO PERFORM ON MARCH 15 AT THE HOME OF A SOVIET FRIEND FOR AN INVITED AUDIENCE INCLUDING FOREIGNERS. KGB INTERFERENCE FORCED CANCELLATION AND INVITEES WERE INFORMED BY PHONE THAT THE EVENING WAS OFF. AMARANTOV WAS ALSO SUPPOSED TO GIVE TWO PERFORMANCES RECENTLY IN A FACTORY CLUB IN PODOL'SK (IN THE MOSCOW SUBURBS) FOR THE PRINCELY SUM OF 40 RUBLES. KGB DELAYED HIS ARRIVAL BUT HE SUCCEEDED IN GIVING ONE PERFORMANCE.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03790 221849Z

5. WE ARE POUCHING TO EUR/SOV COPIES OF STATEMENTS BY PODRABINEK AND THE WORKING COMMISSION ON SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICES, AS WELL AS THE STATEMENT ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE ARTS.
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